



2013 Deer Trustee Report

Public Action Team Implementation Proposal

1 of 2

Action Team: Science & Research	Population Management A.5.
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This document shows the original Deer Trustee Report recommendation that the Public Action Team considered when developing proposals for implementing the recommendation in Wisconsin. The Public Action Team's implementation proposal is presented then followed by additional background information.

I. ORIGINAL DEER TRUSTEE REPORT RECOMMENDATION

A.5. Reduce the number of DMUs. Decreasing the number of DMUs should improve the reliability of all metrics used for the simplified population goal system. Reduction in the number of DMUs has also been recommended by the Deer 2000 and 2006 SAK Audit Reports, but was not supported by the public because of concerns about management at the local level. Development of a DMAP as discussed elsewhere in this report would address these concerns by providing site-specific management options. Consideration could also be given to reducing the number of regions by combining the Farmland Regions.

II. PUBLIC ACTION TEAM PROPOSAL FOR IMPLEMENTING THE ABOVE RECOMMENDATION

Below is the Public Action Team implementation proposal along with their rationale and supporting evidence, potential implementation obstacles and consideration of the proposal's potential impact on the overall deer management in Wisconsin.

1. Action Team Implementation Proposal:

- The committee endorses aggregation of DMUs which have similar habitat, overwinter goals, etc..., where 1 to 7 DMUs are aggregated (with less aggregation in the north), to be reviewed every 3 years. (8/9 support, 1 prefers current system).
- The team endorses the recommendation in principle. (8/9, 1 says no change)
- Counties as DMUs (8/9, do not support, 1 abstain, based on insufficient discussion)
- Reduce DMUs by aggregating current DMUs to maintain continuity with historical data
- Team disagrees with DTR Rules and Regulations Team's recommendation for A.5. as of 7/20/2013, given concern about the flexibility to manage at appropriate scales (e.g., address CWD) (9/9 support)
- Implementation recommendations:
 - Consider reducing the number of DMUs where appropriate and in consultation with scientists and citizen deer research advisory committee (team recommended the deer research advisory committee in a previous recommendation), incorporating public input and similar deer habitat and populations (9/9 support).
 - If considering reducing the number of DMUs, clearly define goals, functional relationship (sensitivity to change in deer population), and cost-benefit of proposed reduction (see alignment with metrics discussed in A.4.). (9/9 support)
 - Maintain DMU boundaries that are recognizable in the field, avoiding county lines (9/9 support).

2. Supporting data, references, rationale and other information behind it.

- Aggregating DMUs, using historic boundaries, preserves historical wildlife data.
- Aggregating DMUs can improve precision of estimates.
- Too much aggregation will impinge on management of CWD, or other management issues that may arise.



Public Action Team Implementation Proposal

3. Consider and describe potential implementation obstacles or drawbacks.

- May be counterintuitive to many hunters' perspectives and expectations, and thus not supported.

4. Overall, how will this proposal simplify or complicate deer hunting, management, or research in Wisconsin.

- Boundary confusions, but may be short-term.